environment. Since Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI) fulfilled the criterion, it was nominated as a Centre of Excellence five years back and was provided financial assistance for various activities. However, no funds were released to the Centre during 2000-2002 owing to some complaints. Subsequently, after the inquiry permission was given to utilise the unspent money. The Institute, however, did not spend the money for the earmarked purposes like purchase of equipment and construction of herbarium-cum-museum building etc.

Release of forest land for wind power project and mini hydel station

1766. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: *Will the Minister of* ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for diversion of forests land for establishing a 10 MW Wind Power Project by M/s. Subhash Projects and Marketing Limited, a Mini Hydel Station by M/s. Sandur Power Company Pvt. Ltd., and Wind Farm Unit by M/s. Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd.,were submitted to Government; and

(b) if so, by when the proposals are expected to be approved by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The proposal for diversion of 65.74 ha. forest land for establishment of 10 MW wind power project in favour of M/s. Subhash Projects and Marketing Ltd. in District Gadag, Karnataka has been accorded in-principle approval on 05.08.2002. The proposal for diversion of 4.90 ha. forest land for establishment of Varahi Tail Race Mini Hydel Station in favour of M/s. Sandur Power Company Pvt. Ltd. in District Udupi, Karnataka has been accorded approval on 18.07.2002. The proposal for diversion of 19.94 ha. forest land for establishment of Wind Farm Unit in favour of M/s. Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd. in Karnataka has been accorded in-principal approval on 12.12.2002.